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A NEW LACERTID LIZARD FROM ANGOLA

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The Conover Angola Expedition, 1954, under the direction of Mr. Gerd Heinrich and sponsored by Chicago Natural History Museum, collected a series of lacertid lizards that are described below. The specimens were found in the crop of a goshawk collected at Mount Moco, in central Angola.

The drawing is the work of John Pfiffner, Staff Illustrator.

Ichnotropis microlepidota, new species. Figure 1.

Ichnotropis bivittata Parker (non Bocage), 1936, Nov. Zool., **40**: 135.

Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum no. 74285, from the foot of Mount Moco, Benguela Province, Angola. A male collected by Gerd Heinrich, September 19, 1954.

Diagnosis.—An *Ichnotropis* with a single frontonasal, a single anterior loreal, prefrontals in contact with the second supraocular, a small series of scales separating the second and third supraoculars from the supraciliaries, unusually small dorsal scales, and a high number of scales around the middle of the body.

Description of type.—Upper head shields strongly striated and keeled; nostril between three shields; nasals forming a suture behind rostral equaling diameter of nostril; frontonasal one-third broader than long; prefrontals much longer than broad, forming an extensive median suture, in contact with the frontonasals, two loreals, first and second supraoculars, and frontal; frontal one-half as wide as long anteriorly, and two-fifths as wide as long where it is narrowest; frontoparietals longer than their broadest width (posteriorly); parietals longer than broad, separated from each other by a large interparietal and occipital, bordered laterally by an elongate shield; four supraoculars, the first very small, about three-fourths length of fourth and one-third width of fourth, the second and third supraoculars very large, the second much the largest and about the same size as a frontoparietal; second and third supraoculars separated

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from the supraciliaries by a single series of elongated, keeled scales; five supraciliaries, the anterior two much the longest.

Lower nasal broadly in contact with rostral, first upper labial, and anterior loreal; postnasal small, in contact with the other two nasals, anterior loreal, and frontonasal; anterior loreal much smaller than posterior loreal; four upper labials anterior to subocular; one subocular narrower beneath than above and bordering the mouth, separated from the posterior loreal by a freno-ocular; an enlarged temporal scale in contact with a subocular and the fifth upper labial and separated from the parietals by four temporal scales; tympanum distinct, with an enlarged anterior shield; lower eyelid with a series of vertically enlarged scales in the middle.

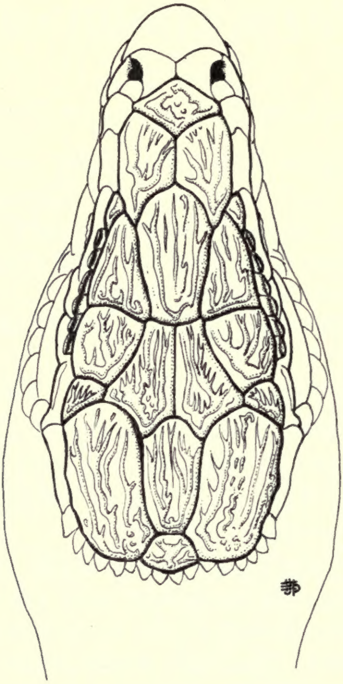

FIG. 1. Type specimen of *Ichnotropis microlepidota* sp. nov.; × 6.

Five pairs of chinshields, the plates of the first three pairs in contact medially; gular scales imbricate.

Dorsal scales strongly keeled and imbricate, distinctly shorter than rounded ventral plates; 49 scales around middle of body; ventral plates in 10 longitudinal and 28 transverse series; preanal

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region covered with irregular scales; scales on dorsal side of forelimbs enlarged and imbricate; subdigital lamellae quinquecarinate, 17 under fourth toe; femoral-preanal pores 11–10.

Caudal scales strongly keeled except smooth in the anterior ventral region; 27 scales in the fourth whorl behind the postanal granules.

Body length 52 mm., regenerated tail 37 mm.

Color (in alcohol): head dark brown above; frontal and first supraocular light gray with dark fine spots; a light stripe running below eye from snout through tympanum to neck, breaking up into light spots on sides of body; lip with black blotches; under surface of head light gray with some black mottling; back with irregular longitudinal black bands, the light gray spots along the center of these bands forming irregular ocelli; ventral plates light gray with numerous tiny black spots except along posterior edges; dorsal surface of tail similar to back but lighter; under surface of tail uniformly light tan.

Paratypes.—CNHM nos. 74283–84, 74286–87, collected with the type. Tails of three of the paratypes are incomplete; that of specimen no. 74284 measured 56 mm., which is 0.52 of total length. For variation of these specimens see Table 1.

Remarks.—This form and *Ichnotropis bivittata* Bocage differ from the other known forms of this genus in having the following combination of characters: (1) a single frontonasal, (2) a single anterior loreal, (3) prefrontals in contact with second (largest) supraoculars, and (4) the two largest supraoculars (second and third) separated from the supraciliaries by a series of small scales.

I. microlepidota can be distinguished from *bivittata* by the much smaller dorsal scales and their greater number at mid-body, and the lower number of lamellae under the fourth toe (Table 2). Parker (1936, p. 135) noted that his specimen from Mount Moco, which he tentatively identified as *bivittata,* had unusually small dorsal scales (45–56 rows at mid-body) and might represent a racial differentiation of *I. bivittata.* I have examined four specimens of *I. bivittata* from Angola. The differences between these populations merit specific rank because the two forms occur together. This is especially clear, for CNHM no. 74288, collected at the foot of Mount Moco, is a typical *I. bivittata.* The other three *bivittata* are from Chitau, Bie Province, Angola. In Table 2 data from Boulenger (1921, p. 185) are also included.

TABLE 1.—Comparison of *Ichnotropis microlepidota* and *I. bivittata*

Specimen number	Sex	Labials anterior to subocular	Pairs of chinshields[1]	Longitudinal rows of ventral plates	Transverse rows of ventral plates	Scales around mid-body	Femoral pores	Subdigital lamellae under 4th toe	Body length mm.
					I. microlepidota				
CNHM									
74283	♀	4	5 (3)	8	29	48	11–10	17	50
74284	♀	4	5 (3)	8	30	49	13–13	16	51
74285	♂	4	5 (3)	10	28	48	11–10	17	52
74286	♂	4	5 (3)	8	27	43	11–11	17	52
74287	♂	4	5 (3)	10	28	50	12–13	16	49
					I. bivittata				
74288	♀	4–3	5 (3)	10	29	32	9–10	20	71
18507 (5856)	♀	4	5 (3)	10	29	38	12–12	19	65
18507 (5855)	♀	4	5 (3)	10	28	36	11–11	19	66
18507 (5851)	♂	4–5	4 (3)	10	27	39	13–14	21	72

[1] The number in parentheses is the number of those in contact.

TABLE 2.—Variation in Scale Characters of *I. microlepidota* and *I. bivittata*

Species		Sex	Number of specimens	Lamellae under 4th toe[1]	Scales at mid-body[1]
I. microlepidota		♂	3	16–17 (16.6)	43–50 (47.0)
		♀	2	16–17 (16.5)	48–49 (48.5)
I. bivittata					
	CNHM specimens	♂	1	21	39
		♀	3	19–20 (19.6)	32–36 (35.3)
	Boulenger (1921)	♂	13	18–24 (19.9)	34–39 (36.0)
		♀	8	18–22 (20.0)	36–40 (38.1)

[1] Mean in parentheses.

Predation.—The type series (nos. 74283–87) was removed from the crop of a male chanting goshawk, *Melierax metabates* Heuglin (CNHM no. 224087). The hawk, with its lizard food, is figured on page 64 of the Annual Report of this Museum for the year 1955.

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